

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
DEC 14 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A chromatographic separation method for separating components of sugars selected from the group consisting of monosaccharides, disaccharides, trisaccharides and oligosaccharides, corresponding sugar alcohols thereof, polyols and mixtures thereof from a solution containing the same, wherein the method comprises at least one chromatographic separation step in which with a weakly basic anion exchange resin ~~is used for chromatographic separation for separating said components, wherein said step comprises~~

feeding said solution into a chromatographic column filled with the weakly basic anion exchange resin, eluting said column with an eluant and recovering a product fraction or product fractions, where the content of said component is higher than in the solution fed into the chromatographic separation step.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the method comprises an additional chromatographic separation step with a column filled with a weakly acid cation exchange resin ~~is also used.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the method comprises an additional chromatographic separation step with a column filled with a strongly acid cation exchange resin ~~is also used.~~

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the weakly basic anion exchange resin is an acrylic-based resin.

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the weakly basic anion exchange resin is based on a resin selected from the group consisting of polystyrene resins, epichlorohydrin-based anion exchange resins, aminated products of phenol or formaldehyde resins, aliphatic amines and ammonia polycondensation resins.
7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the resin is crosslinked with an aromatic crosslinker.
8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the resin is crosslinked with divinylbenzene.
9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the crosslinking degree is from about 1 to about 10 weight-% divinylbenzene.
10. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the crosslinking degree is from about 3 to about 8 weight-% divinylbenzene.
11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the resin can be crosslinked with an aliphatic crosslinker selected from the group consisting of isoprene, 1,7-octadiene, trivinylcyclohexane, diethylene glycol divinylether, N,N'-methylenebisacrylamide, N,N'-alkylenebisacrylamides, ethyleneglycol dimethacrylate, di-, tri-, tetra-, pentacrylate and pentamethacrylate.
12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein the temperature of the column, the feed solution and the eluant is between 10 and 95°C.
13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[2]] 1, characterized in that the temperature of the column, the feed solution and the eluant is between 40 and 95°C.

14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the particle size of the weakly basic anion exchange resin is from 10 to 2000 micrometers, preferably from 100 to 400 micrometers.
15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein the pH of the feed solution is on the acidic side of the pH range.
16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein the eluant is water and an aqueous solution.
17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the eluant is water.
18. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the eluant is condensate water.
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the monosaccharides to be separated are pentose, hexose, tetrose monosaccharides, deoxyhexose, deoxypentose or anhydroalditols.
21. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the disaccharides to be separated are tetrose, pentose or hexose disaccharides.
22. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the sugar alcohols to be separated are xylitol, erytritol or inositol.
23. (Cancelled)
24. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein sugars and sugar alcohols are separated from betaine.

25. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the separated sugar is rhamnose.
26. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the separated sugar is maltose.
27. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the separated sugar alcohol is inositol.
28. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the separated polyol is glycerol.
29. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the method is a batch process.
30. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the method is a simulated moving bed system.
31. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 30, characterized in that the simulated moving bed system is continuous.
32. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 30, characterized in that the simulated moving bed system is sequential.